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Conflicts Begin

During the 1800s, people in the United States were divided. One of the major issues that divided the nation was slavery. The Southerners did not want their way of life changed. Slaves did much of the physical work on the **plantations** (plan-TAY-shuhnz). Some people in the North did not believe that slaves should continue to be used. This disagreement led to many other problems in the country.

Congress tried to prevent a war by **compromising** (KOM-pruh-myz-ing). But, the compromises were not enough. In 1860, the Southerners were angered by the election of Abraham Lincoln as president. States began to **secede** (suh-SEED) from the Union. A civil war was about to begin.

▼ Plantations were important to the South.

